

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-68 (Canceled).

69. (Previously Presented) A method for supplementing a flow of blood to a portion of the cardiovascular system of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a catheter device into the vasculature of the patient and advancing the catheter device to a first location within a first coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system;

(b) guiding the catheter device through an interstitial passageway formed between the first location and a second location within a second coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system; the second location within the second coronary vessel being distal to an obstruction in the second coronary vessel; and

(c) forming a blood flow path from a heart chamber directly to the second coronary vessel.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein forming a blood flow path from the heart chamber directly to the second coronary vessel includes placing a conduit in a heart wall between the heart chamber and the second coronary vessel.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein the interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the first coronary vessel and through a wall of the second coronary vessel between the first and second locations.

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72. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein the second coronary vessel is a coronary artery.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein the coronary artery is a left anterior descending coronary artery.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein the first coronary vessel is a coronary vein proximate to the coronary artery.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein the first coronary vessel is a great cardiac vein.

76. (Previously Presented) A method for supplementing a flow of blood to a portion of the cardiovascular system of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a catheter device into the vasculature of the patient and advancing the catheter device to a first location within a first coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system;

(b) guiding the catheter device through a first interstitial passageway formed between the first location and a second location within a second coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system;

(c) advancing the catheter device to a third location within the second coronary vessel;

(d) guiding the catheter device through a second interstitial passageway formed between the third location and a fourth location within the first coronary vessel; the fourth location being distal to an obstruction in the first coronary vessel; and

(e) forming a blood flow path from a heart chamber directly to the first coronary vessel.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 76, wherein forming a blood flow path from the heart chamber directly to the first coronary vessel includes placing a conduit in a heart wall between the heart chamber and the first coronary vessel.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 76, wherein:

(a) the first interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the first coronary vessel and through a wall of the second coronary vessel between the first and second locations; and

(b) the second interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the second coronary vessel and through a wall of the first coronary vessel between the third and fourth locations.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 76, wherein the first coronary vessel is a coronary artery.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein the

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coronary artery is a left anterior descending coronary artery.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein the second coronary vessel is a coronary vein proximate to the coronary artery.

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81, wherein the first coronary vessel is a great cardiac vein.

83. (New) A catheter for directing a guidewire device substantially laterally with respect to a body passage within which the catheter is introduced, comprising:

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, having a distal portion adapted for insertion within a body passage, and defining a longitudinal axis and an outer peripheral surface;

a lumen extending between the proximal end and a peripheral opening in the distal portion; and

a deflecting member adjacent the peripheral opening for directing a guidewire device substantially laterally with respect to the longitudinal axis.

84. (New) The catheter of claim 83, wherein the deflecting member has a predetermined acute deflection angle for directing the guidewire device substantially distally and laterally.

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85. (New) The catheter of claim 83, wherein the guidewire device comprises a needle assembly having a guidewire lumen extending therethrough.

86. (New) The catheter of claim 83, further comprising an orientation element on the distal portion having a predetermined relationship with the peripheral opening.

87. (New) A catheter for directing a guidewire substantially laterally with respect to a body passage within which the catheter is introduced, comprising:

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, having a distal portion adapted for insertion within a body passage, and defining a longitudinal axis and an outer peripheral surface;

a first lumen extending proximally from a first opening in the distal end; and

a second lumen extending between the proximal end of the elongate member and a second lateral opening in the distal portion proximate the distal end.

88. (New) The catheter of claim 87, wherein the second lateral opening is located on the peripheral surface of the elongate member.

89. (New) The catheter of claim 87, wherein the second lumen includes a deflection ramp adjacent the second lateral opening.

90. (New) The catheter of claim 87, wherein the first lumen has a peripheral opening.

91. (New) The catheter of claim 90, wherein the peripheral opening is in the distal portion.

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